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Poweshiek Iowa Development official named to state board

A Grinnell man heavily involved with area economic development was recently appointed to a state board.

Governor Tom Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson recently appointed 12 individuals to the first Iowa Great Places Board.

Among those appointed was Bill Menner, Executive Director of Poweshiek Iowa Development.

Menner is also Director of Grinnell Renaissance and was the coordinator of the

local fundraising effort for the STRAND theater in Grinnell.

"I think it's going to be a lot of fun," Menner said, referring to the board. "It's a chance to try to bring a brand-new approach to community development."

Menner said two members of Governor Vilsack's Cabinet, Anita Walker with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Michael Tramontina with the Department of Man-

agement, mentioned Menner's name to the Governor as a possible board member.

The Iowa Great Places Board was initially created after Governor Vilsack signed Executive Order 39 on January 11, 2005.

The board's purpose is to bring together the resources of state government to build capacity in communities, regions, neighborhoods or districts to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities that make these areas special places to live and work.

The board will advise in the design of the Iowa Great Places initiative and assist in the selection of three pilot Great Places.

Menner added that he has no doubt that parts or all of Poweshiek County will come up with proposals to be one of the three Great Places pilot projects.

Menner said the board's first meeting is set for June 8.